

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG

SUBJ: PAO PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET AND RELATED ITEMS.

REF: ROME 11749

SUMMARY: GG MET FRIDAY, OCT. 26. HEARD REPORT REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD MET WITH DDG. HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION PROPOSED BUDGET LEVEL 1974-75, AND EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CANDIDACIES. SET NO DATE FOR NEXT SESSION.

1. GENEVA GROUP MET UNDER UK CHAIRMANSHIP FRIDAY, OCT. 26. ONLY FRANCE ABSENT. GG DEPUTATION REPORTED FULLY ON MEETING PREVIOUS DAY WITH DDG JACKSON, WEST AND WALTON. (REFTEL CONTAINS REPORT MEETING.) MEMBERS WERE APPRECIATIVE FURTHER DETAILS PROVIDED BUT ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY CONCERNED THAT PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET BEING INCREASED ON STEP BY STEP BASIS WITH SOME ADD-ONE DEVELOPING FOLLOWING JUNE COUNCIL REVIEW AND OTHERS SUBSEQUENT TO RECENT PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SESSIONS. GERMANY AND NETHERLANDS CRITICAL OF DG FOR NOT MOVING EARLIER TO STRENGTHEN STAFF HANDLING FIELD ACCOUNTS BUT HIGH IN PRAISE HIS EFFORTS TO MEET UNBUDGETED EXPENSES IN CURRENT BIENNIUM. MOST MEMBERS OF VIEW FAO BUDGET SHOULD NOT BEAR FULL SUPPORT COSTS OF UNEP/FAO

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COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. VIEW WAS EXPRESSED DG SHOULD HAVE ASKED

COUNCIL FOR POLICY GUIDANCE THIS ISSUE.

2. WITH REGARD PROPOSED SUSPENSE ACCOUNT, UK PROPOSED CONTINUOUS MONITORING IF APPROVED. RECALCULATION BUDGET AT 563 LIRA PER DOLLAR BRINGS PROPOSED LEVEL OF ACCOUNT INTO QUESTION. AUSTRALIA PARTICULARLY CRITICAL PROPOSED LEVEL.

3. CHAIRMAN, WHO RECOGNIZED SCANT TIME GOVERNMENTS HAD TO REACT DG'S LATEST THINKING, ASKED FOR ANY VIEWS NOW AVAILABLE ON MAGNITUDE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1974-75. ASKED US LEAD OFF. REPRESENTATIVE SAID US AS YET UNDECIDED ON BUDGET LEVEL BUT MUCH CONCERNED AT \$108.5 MILLION PROPOSAL. WOULD LIKE SEE MEMBERS SUPPORT ABSORPTION SOME NEWLY DISCLOSED ITEMS AND PERHAPS CONSIDER POSTPONING SOME ACTIVITIES IN ORDER REACH REASONABLE LEVEL. ITALY REPORTED NO POSITION. SWITZERLAND, ALTHOUGH WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, FELT FAO PROPOSALS FAIRLY MODEST COMPARED OTHERS. HE CITED UNESCO. NEVERTHELESS SWITZERLAND WOULD WELCOME REDUCTIONS. SWEDEN HAD NO PROBLEM WITH LEVEL. SAID ITS PERCENTAGE LOW ENOUGH TO PRECLUDE CONCERN. CANADA, WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, EXPECTED CLOSE SCRUTINY OF ESTIMATES. RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTY OBJECTING SOME ITEMS AND FELT OVERALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IMPORTANT. NOT FAIR TAKE HARD LINE ONE AGENCY.

4. GERMANY SPOKE ALONG LINES CANADA BUT ADMITTEDLY WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. BELGIUM EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LEVEL BUT HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF GREAT REDUCTIONS. NEVERTHELESS HOPED GG COULD ASSIST IN LOWERING SOMEWHAT AND LOBBYING WITH LDCS TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR REDUCED AMOUNT. UK THEN REPEATED "SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER LEVEL EXPRESSED DEPUTATION MEMBERS PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL). SAID UK CERTAIN TO TAKE TOUGHER LINE 61ST COUNCIL THAN JUNE MEETING. SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED "FLOAT" IDEA OF FREEZING BUDGET LEVEL AT \$101.5 WITH WHATEVER PROGRAM REDUCTION NECESSARY ACHIEVE THIS.

5. GERMANY, CANADA, BELGIUM THOUGHT THIS A VERY TOUGH VIEW, PERHAPS SEVERE. UK REP WAS ASKED IF REACTION FROM CAPITALS DESIRED. HE REPLIED YET BUT OBSERVED THIS WAS ONLY TENTATIVE THOUGHT UK AND HE PERSONALLY FELT IT WAS UNREALISTIC. GENERAL VIEW GG SEEMED BE THIS WAS A "NON-STARTER" BUT MEMBERS AGREED INFORM UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPITALS.

6. GROUP TOOK NO DECISION ON WHEN NEXT MEET. SHOULD WASHINGTON FEEL MEETING NECESSARY TO COORDINATE VIEWS NINE MEMBERS CURRENTLY ON COUNCIL DURING 61ST SESSION, YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND (A) PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET SCHEDULED TO BE DISCUSSED TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AND (B) US SCHEDULED CHAIR NEXT MEETING GG.

7. GROUP THEN EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON CANDIDATURES FOR PROGRAM AND FINANCE ELECTIONS. SITUATION SEEMS AS FOLLOWS AT PRESENT: CHAIRMANSHIP PROGRAM COMMITTEE, ONLY PHILLIPS (US). MEMBERS: TUINMAN (NETHERLANDS), KRISTENSEN (DENMARK), VIGNAUD (ARGENTINA), ANDO (JAPAN), SHAIB (NIGERIA), BUCIUMAN (ROMANIA), PRASAD (INDIA), SIEGENS (HONDURAS) AND A GERMAN CANDIDATE (UNNAMED) SHOULD LUBE NOT RUN FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE.

8. FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMANSHIP, ONLY SHEFRIN (CANADA), WEILL (FRANCE), BYRNES (US), VASCONCELLOS (BRAZIL), FROST (UK), KESSEBA (ARE), AMAT (INDONESIA), PROBABLY LUHE (GERMANY) AND POSSIBLY LOCHEN (NORWAY) AS NORDIC DESIGNEE. ANOTHER IF NOT HE.

9. DISCUSSIONS RE BOTH COMMITTEES REVEALED FEELING AMONG SOME LOCAL LDC REPRESENTATIVES THAT REGIONAL PARTICIPATION AND PERHAPS MORE FREQUENT TURNOVER IN THESE COMMITTEES DESIRED. ABOVE NAMED KESSEBA, AMAT AND PRASAD SEEM MOST INVOLVED. WILL NEED WATCH THIS CLOSELY IN VIEW IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THESE COMMITTEES EFFECTIVE. COULD ALSO SERIOUSLY AFFECT US CANDIDATURES. VOLPE

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